

Smith, Darrell
Page 1 of 1

Tucson Electric Power Sahuarita-Nogales Transmission line
DEIS

From: Darrells17@aol.com
[SMTP:Darrells17@aol.com]
To: Pell, Jerry
Cc:

Subject: Tucson Electric Power Sahuarita-Nogales
Transmission line DEIS
Sent: 10/14/2003 9:58 PM
Importance: Normal

Dear Dr. Pell

1 | I am sending this Email to protest the "Tucson Electric
Power Sahuarita-Nogales Transmission line DEIS." If you
have ever spent time in this wilderness area then you know
this is one of the most beautiful areas in the state. In
particular I have spent lots of time camping in the area
of Ruby Road and Sycamore Canyon. I'm also a Junior
High teacher and I feel this State Treasure needs to be kept
as pristine as possible for our children. I do not support the
2 | proposed routes because I don't feel this project is necessary
considering the huge Environmental and Scenic impact
it would have.

Sincerely,
Darrell Smith
1633 E. Water St.
Tucson, AZ 85719

Comment No. 1

The Federal agencies note the commentor's opposition to the proposed project.

Comment No. 2

Chapter 3 describes the affected environment of the areas cited by resource area, and Chapter 4 evaluates the potential impacts of the proposed project on each of these resources.

The ACC is vested with the state's authority to decide how it believes energy should be furnished within Arizona's borders (for example, the need for and effectiveness of transmission lines within its borders). Refer to the revised text in Section 1.1.2, The Origin of TEP's Proposal: TEP's Business Plan and the Proceedings of the Arizona Corporation Committee, that provides explanation of the jurisdictions and authorities of the state and Federal agencies, and their relationship to this NEPA analysis.

Sotelo, Charlie Mazaria

Page 1 of 1

From: Charles Sotelo [SMTP:vallerealty@cybertrails.com]
To: Pell, Jerry
Cc:
Subject: No to TEP
Sent: 9/2/2003 10:40 AM
Importance: Normal

Dear Mr. Pell:

Hope you remember me from past meetings.

I am asked, again, to let you know the Thermo Electric Plant in Agua Prieta Sonora Mexico does not need the competition from Big Brother from the North to service Nogales Sonora, Santa Ana , Hermosillo, Cananea, Naco, Agua Prieta or Nacozeni.

Our NEW Mexican power plant will service our citizens electric needs and hire Mexicans (jobs on the border region can save a life of an illegal immigrants trying to cross the border looking for work in the U.S.) to continue the operation of our first phase of operation, 300 megawatts. We will have three more phases of 300 megawatts as Spain continues to fund our operation. Without customers (the one's PNM and TEP are trying to steal) we potentially lose our financing and the continuation of this economic development plan for our Mexican citizens.

The money made by our electric plant (from our Mexican customers) will stay in Mexico to the benefit of Mexicans thereby improving their standard of living!!

TEP & PNM, please use your access power in the United States saving your customers money and do not destroy pristine desert by placing new poles all the way to Nogales, Arizona.

Again, please come visit us and I'll arrange a tour of the wonderful power plant we have in Agua Prieta. Then you'll see we do not need the invasion by TEP or PNM!!!

Charlie Mazaira Sotelo
520 432 2505 wk
520 432 2130 fax
vallerealty.com web
vallerealty@cybertrails.com

Comment No. 1

Whether or in what manner the proposed TEP project would compete with the Agua Prieta Thermo Electric Plant is outside the scope of the EIS. Approval of TEP's proposed project by any of the Federal agencies would only grant approval of the proposed project, but would not mandate that it be built.

It is the Federal agencies' understanding that the power plant facilities referenced by the commentor in Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico are the same facilities that Chapter 5, Cumulative Effects, has been revised to include (see Section 5.2.4, Power Plants in Mexico). This section describes current and planned construction of power generating facilities near Naco, Sonora, which is approximately 20 mi (32 km) west of Agua Prieta, Sonora.

Sections 3.3 and 4.3 present a description of the existing biological resources and analyze the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project, including impacts to vegetation.

Spotts, Richard
Page 1 of 2

From: spotts@infowest.com [SMTP:spotts@infowest.com]
To: Pell, Jerry
Cc:
Subject: Please Withdraw Deficient DEIS on Tucson Electric Power's proposed 345 kilovolt powerline
Sent: 10/9/2003 8:44 PM **Importance:** Normal

Dr. Jerry Pell
U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Fossil Energy (FE-27)
1000 Independence Avenue. SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Dr. Pell,

1 | Please withdraw the current Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Tucson Electric Power's proposed 345 kilovolt powerline.

2 | This DEIS is deficient because it does not analyze a reasonable range of alternatives, as required by CEQ regulations. The DEIS must therefore be withdrawn so that additional reasonable alternatives can be added and analyzed in a revised or supplemental DEIS that would then be available for public review and comment.

3 | TEP's proposed "Western Route" and alternative "Crossover Route" would carve through some of the most remote and wild areas in Southeast Arizona, forever scarring the beautiful and irreplaceable landscape of the Tumacacori Highlands. This area contains several roadless areas as well as a citizen's proposed Wilderness area home to black bears, Mexican spotted owls, lesser-long nosed bats and peregrine

Comment No. 1

The commentor's opinion that the Draft EIS should be withdrawn is noted.

Comment No. 2

Section 1.2 of the Final EIS explains the roles of the Federal agencies in developing alternatives for the proposed project. Where an applicant seeks a permit for a particular business project, such as the case with TEP's proposed project, the Federal agencies generally limit their review of alternatives to those that would satisfy the applicant's proposal and decide whether that proposal is or is not worthy of receiving a permit. The Federal agencies do not review alternatives that are not within the scope of the applicant's proposal. Similarly, the agencies do not direct the applicant to alter its proposal; instead, the agencies decide whether a permit is appropriate for the proposal as the applicant envisions it. It is not for the agency to run the applicant's business and to change the applicant's proposal, but only to evaluate the environmental effects of the applicant's business proposal as offered. Accordingly, the EIS evaluates a reasonable range of alternatives, which include the full spectrum of alternatives that would satisfy the applicant's proposal.

Comment No. 3

Sections 3.1 and 4.1 of the EIS describe existing land use resources and analyze potential impacts to these resources, including potential impacts to the Tumacacori Mountains and the Tumacacori EMA of the Coronado National Forest.

Sections 3.1, Land Use, and 3.12, Transportation, discuss the IRAs within the Coronado National Forest. Sections 4.1, Land Use, and 4.12, Transportation, evaluate potential impacts to IRAs.

Section 5.2.4 acknowledges the citizen-initiated proposal for an addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Sections 3.3 and 4.3 discuss the existing biological resources and analyze the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project, including potential impacts to wildlife.

Spotts, Richard
Page 2 of 2

3 cont.	falcons as well as lesser known species such as the Sonora chub, Mexican vine snake, elegant trogon and the Gentry indigo bush. A jaguar was sighted in this area only two years ago.
4	The important goal of providing fully reliable electrical service to the city of Nogales and Santa Cruz County must be achieved. Unfortunately, instead of building the small transmission line necessary to achieve this goal, TEP has proposed a massive, environmentally destructive, and extremely controversial powerline designed to export power to Mexico.
2 cont.	The DEIS is clearly inadequate, because it does not address important alternatives to TEP's powerline which would provide reliable service without destroying our environmental and cultural heritage, and which would not require huge increases to consumers' electricity bills.
5	The recent blackout in the Northeast is an urgent reminder that our energy policy should be based on serving the public interest, not corporate private profits. I urge DOE to issue a supplemental DEIS which fully and rigorously explores all available options-including a local power plant and smaller power lines which would not serve Mexico-to meet the important public interest of providing reliable energy service to Santa Cruz County.
	Thank you very much for your consideration.
	Sincerely, Richard Spotts 1125 W. Emerald Drive St. George, Utah 84770

Comment No. 4

TEP's purpose and need for the proposed project, as provided to DOE in TEP's Presidential Permit Application, is "...to construct a double-circuit 345 kV, alternating current transmission line to interconnect the existing electrical systems of TEP and Citizens Utilities ("Citizens") in Nogales, Arizona, with a further interconnection to be made from Nogales, Arizona to the CFE transmission system...." When a Federal agency is evaluating a request for a permit for a proposed action developed by a non-Federal applicant (e.g., TEP), CEQ has opined that Federal agencies should select alternatives which are feasible given the applicant's stated goals and reflect the "common sense realities" of the situation. Therefore, the Federal agencies are evaluating the proposed project presented by TEP to each of the Federal agencies (see Section 1.2.2, Federal Agencies' Purpose and Need Statements).

Comment No. 5

A new power plant in Nogales is not a viable alternative to a new, second transmission line (part of TEP's proposal). Therefore, the alternative of a new power plant is not evaluated in detail in this EIS. Likewise, a smaller transmission line in lieu of the proposed 345-kV line would not meet the international interconnection aspect of TEP's proposal, and therefore is not evaluated in detail in this EIS. (Refer also to Section 2.1.5, Alternatives Considered But Eliminated From Further Analysis).

Stabel, Roberta
Page 1 of 1

September 23, 2003

Sue Kozacek
Acting Supervisor
Coronado National Forest
300 West Congress
Tucson, Arizona 85701

Dear Ms. Kozacek,

I am writing regarding the Tucson Electric Power Sahuarita-Nogales Transmission Line DEIS and the needed Forest Plan Amendments

1 The Western and Crossover routes crossing the Tumacacori and Atascosa Mountains would dramatically and detrimentally affect an outstanding primitive area in Southern Arizona. We need to treasure and protect these area from these kinds of impacts. I enjoy hiking and birdwatching in these areas and live just east of the Tumacacori Mountains. The essentially roadlessness of these mountains makes them truly special and unusual.

2 TEP would be building miles of new road for the Preferred route. More road building in this area would impact sensitive and endangered species. Later closing these roads would be nearly impossible and the damage in terms of impact and introduction of invasive species would already be done. The draft EIS is clearly inadequate and this line would
3 serve no benefit to Santa Cruz County and Southern Arizona, but only serve corporate interests.

4 A Forest Plan Amendment to allow these impacts would decrease the small supply of remote recreational experiences. I urge you to please deny the special use permit needed for the Western and Central Routes. They are not compatible with the current uses of the affected area.

Sincerely yours,



Roberta Stabel
P. O. Box 213
Tumacacori, Arizona 85640

Comment No. 1

Sections 3.1.2 and 4.1.2 present a description of the existing recreational opportunities and analyze the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project. Sections 3.2 and 4.2 present a description of the existing visual resources and analyze the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project.

Comment No. 2

Sections 3.3 and 4.3 present a description of the existing biological resources and analyze the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project, including potential impacts to special status species.

Regarding the effectiveness of road closures, any authorization issued to implement the proposed project on the Coronado National Forest would contain terms and conditions to ensure road barrier effectiveness and maintenance, as appropriate. Section 4.3.2, Biological Resources, states that the long-term reductions in biological activity (e.g., lack of vegetation in an area due to construction traffic) tend to be more pronounced in arid areas such as the proposed project area where biological communities recover very slowly from disturbances.

Comment No. 3

The ACC is vested with the state's authority to decide how it believes energy should be furnished within Arizona's borders (for example, the need for and effectiveness of transmission lines within its borders). Refer to the revised text in Section 1.1.2, The Origin of TEP's Proposal: TEP's Business Plan and the Proceedings of the Arizona Corporation Committee, that provides explanation of the jurisdictions and authorities of the state and Federal agencies, and their relationship to this NEPA analysis.

The Draft EIS was prepared in accordance with Section 102(2)(c) of NEPA, the Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 *Code of Federal Regulations* [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), and all applicable laws, regulations, and agency policies. The Federal agencies have determined that the Draft EIS does not need to be re-issued for additional review.

Comment No. 4

Sections 3.1.2 and 4.1.2 present a description of the existing recreational opportunities and analyze the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project, including impacts to areas classified as semi-primitive in the Coronado National Forest. Section 4.1.2 specifically evaluates impacts to ROS indicators such as remoteness and naturalness, both of which would have changes that are “inconsistent” with the existing ROS classes for much of the length of the Western and Crossover Corridors within the Coronado National Forest. Analysis of the proposed Forest Plan Amendment is contained in Appendix H.

Sections 3.1 and 4.1 present a description of the existing land use and analyze the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project.

Stabel, Roberta
Page 1 of 1

September 23, 2003

Dr. Jerry Pell
Office of Fossil Energy
U. S. Department of Energy
Washington, D. C. 20585

Dear Dr. Pell,

The following are my comments regarding the Tucson Electric Power Sahuarita-Nogales Transmission Line DEIS:

1 The preferred Western Route and the Crossover routes both slice through environmentally sensitive areas and a citizens' proposed Wilderness Area. The areas would be forever scarred.

The preferred Western Route is the longest, most expensive and environmentally damaging of all the proposed routes, but the Crossover route is equally unacceptable.

2 Most importantly, there is no need for such a huge line. This would not benefit Santa Cruz County. A smaller line such as a 115 kv line is all that is needed and it hasn't even been considered. This line would be much cheaper and could be buried in some areas. This is the size line originally intended under the ACC order 62011.

3 I do not support any of the proposed routes and oppose a large 345 kv line altogether. It would benefit only TEP and its shareholders. They are an unnecessary economic, environmental and cultural burden on Southern Arizona.

4 Please consider withdrawing the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and issuing an assessment that properly analyzes real solutions to power needs in Santa Cruz County that include a smaller power line and/or a locally run power plant.

Sincerely yours,



Roberta Stabel
P. O. Box 213
Tumacacori, Arizona 85640

Comment No. 1

Section 5.2.4 acknowledges the citizen-initiated proposal for an addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Chapter 3 describes the affected environment of the area by resource area, and Chapter 4 evaluates the potential impacts of the proposed project on each of these resources. Section 4.3.2, Biological Resources, states that the long-term reductions in biological activity (e.g., lack of vegetation in an area due to construction traffic) tend to be more pronounced in arid areas such as the proposed project area where biological communities recover very slowly from disturbances.

Comment No. 2

ACC Decision No. 62011 (ACC 1999) mandates the construction of a second transmission line to serve customers in Santa Cruz County, and does not reference the export of electricity to Mexico. However, TEP's stated purpose and need for the proposed project is a dual purpose and need of benefiting both southern Arizona and Mexico.

A smaller transmission line (e.g., 115-kV line) in lieu of the proposed 345-kV line would not meet the international interconnection aspect of TEP's proposal and, therefore, is not evaluated in detail in this EIS (refer also to Section 2.1.5, Alternatives Considered But Eliminated From Further Analysis).

Comment No. 3

TEP's purpose and need for the proposed project, as provided to DOE in TEP's Presidential Permit Application, is "...to construct a double-circuit 345 kV, alternating current transmission line to interconnect the existing electrical systems of TEP and Citizens Utilities ("Citizens") in Nogales, Arizona, with a further interconnection to be made from Nogales, Arizona to the CFE transmission system...." In an applicant-initiated process, such as TEP's proposed project, the range of reasonable alternatives analyzed in detail in the EIS is directly related to the applicant's purpose and need.

Comment No. 4

Section 1.2 of the Final EIS explains the roles of the Federal agencies in developing alternatives for the proposed project. Where an applicant seeks a permit for a particular business project, such as the case with TEP's proposed project, the Federal agencies generally limit their review of alternatives to those that would satisfy the applicant's proposal and decide whether that proposal is or is not worthy of receiving a permit. The Federal agencies do not review alternatives that are not within the scope of the applicant's proposal. Similarly, the agencies do not direct the applicant to alter its proposal; instead, the agencies decide whether a permit is appropriate for the proposal as the applicant envisions it. It is not for the agency to run the applicant's business and to change the applicant's proposal, but only to evaluate the environmental effects of the applicant's business proposal as offered. Accordingly, the EIS evaluates a reasonable range of alternatives, which include the full spectrum of alternatives that would satisfy the applicant's proposal.

A new power plant in Nogales is not a viable alternative to a new, second transmission line (part of TEP's proposal). Therefore, the alternative of a new power plant is not evaluated in detail in this EIS (refer also to Section 2.1.5, Alternatives Considered But Eliminated From Further Analysis). Refer to the response to Comment 2 above regarding a 115-kV transmission line.

Steere, Peter and Susan
Page 1 of 2

Tucson Electric Power Company Sahuarita-Nogales
Transmission Line - Draft EIS

From: Peter L. Steere [SMTP:psteere@toua.net]
To: Pell, Jerry
Cc:

Subject: Tucson Electric Power Company Sahuarita-
Nogales Transmission Line - Draft EIS
Sent: 10/14/2003 3:16 PM
Importance: Normal
DATE October 13, 2003

TO: Dr. Jerry Pell, Manager
Office of Electric Power Regulation
Fossil Energy, FE 27
U.S. Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585

FROM: Peter and Susan Steere
P.O. Box 1508
Tucson, Arizona 85634

RE: Tucson Electric Power Company (TEP) Proposed
Sahuarita-Nogales 345kV Electric Transmission
Line Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Draft EIS for
this proposed TEP 345 kV electric transmission line from
Sahuarita to Nogales.

- 1 | This draft EIS has documented a wide range of serious and
significant impacts to natural and cultural resources located
in or adjacent to the proposed corridors. The visual impacts
- 2 | of the proposed corridors would be severe on the proposed

Comment No. 1

Chapter 3 presents a description of the affected environment and Chapter 4 analyzes the potential impacts to natural and cultural resources from the proposed project. Specifically, Section 3.4 presents a description of the existing cultural resources and Section 4.4 analyzes the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project.

Comment No. 2

Sections 3.2 and 4.2 present a description of the existing visual resources and analyze the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project.

Comment No. 3

The Federal agencies have revised Chapter 5, Cumulative Impacts; Sections 4.1.1, Land Use; and Section 4.12, Transportation of the Final EIS based on the U.S. Border Patrol's response (USBP 2004) to the Federal agencies' request regarding illegal immigration and law enforcement activities in the proposed project vicinity. The U.S. Border Patrol's response generally re-enforced the information on which the relevant analysis in the Draft EIS was based. The U.S. Border Patrol stated that the roads associated with the construction and maintenance of the proposed project would contribute to an increase in illegal immigrant and narcotic smugglers in the area and affect U.S. Border Patrol operations. The effects of these activities are reflected in the Final EIS in the sections listed above

Steere, Peter and Susan
Page 2 of 2

2 | western corridor and western corridor/Peck Canyon
cont. | crossover routes.

3 | It is significant that the Draft EIS has not addressed
cumulative impacts to natural and cultural resources of
illegal immigrant and smugglers making use of the selected
corridor or of the cumulative impacts of law enforcement
trying to apprehend the illegals and smugglers.

4 | For these reasons and others we recommend that the
Department of Energy select the "No Action Alternative"

Comment No. 4

The Federal agencies note the commentor's preference for the No Action Alternative.

Stevenson, Mark
Page 1 of 2

1 October 2003

Dr. Jerry Pell
Office of Fossil Energy
US DOE
Washington, DC 20585

RE: Tucson Electric Power Sahuarita-Nogales Line DEIS

Dear Dr. Pell,

1 I write in opposition to the proposed Tucson Electric Power Company Sahuarita-Nogales power line. I am very familiar with the area that would be impacted, having used it for recreation for more than a decade. It is one of the most scenic, unspoiled areas in a state known for its scenic riches. A long line of monopoles would be a blight on this area!

2 While I understand that the citizens of Santa Cruz County, AZ face problems of unreliable power delivery, this line is a poor solution to that problem. The "preferred" Western route is the longest, most expensive and most blighting of the alternatives. It is also the most environmentally detrimental. TEP and other agencies have fallen short of demonstrating a "Need" for a 345 kV line (as opposed to a 115 kV line). Santa Cruz County doesn't need a 345 kV line!

3 I oppose the "preferred alternative" because it doesn't serve the needs and interests of Santa Cruz County (as originally outlined under ACC Order 62011). It represents an unnecessary economic, environmental and cultural burden on southeastern Arizona.

4 Instead of approving the "preferred alternative", you should consider issuing a Supplemental DEIS that analyzes more appropriate solutions and alternatives to the electric power needs of Santa Cruz County, including a lower-voltage line or a local power plant.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Mark Stevenson, MD
4201 E. Monte Vista Dr J207
Tucson, AZ 85712-5554

Comment No. 1

Sections 3.1.2 and 4.1.2 present a description of the existing recreational opportunities and analyze the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project.

Sections 3.2 and 4.2 present a description of the existing visual resources and analyze the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project.

Comment No. 2

The affected environment of the Western Corridor is described in Chapter 3, and the potential environmental impacts (including socioeconomic impacts) from this alternative are fully evaluated in Chapter 4.

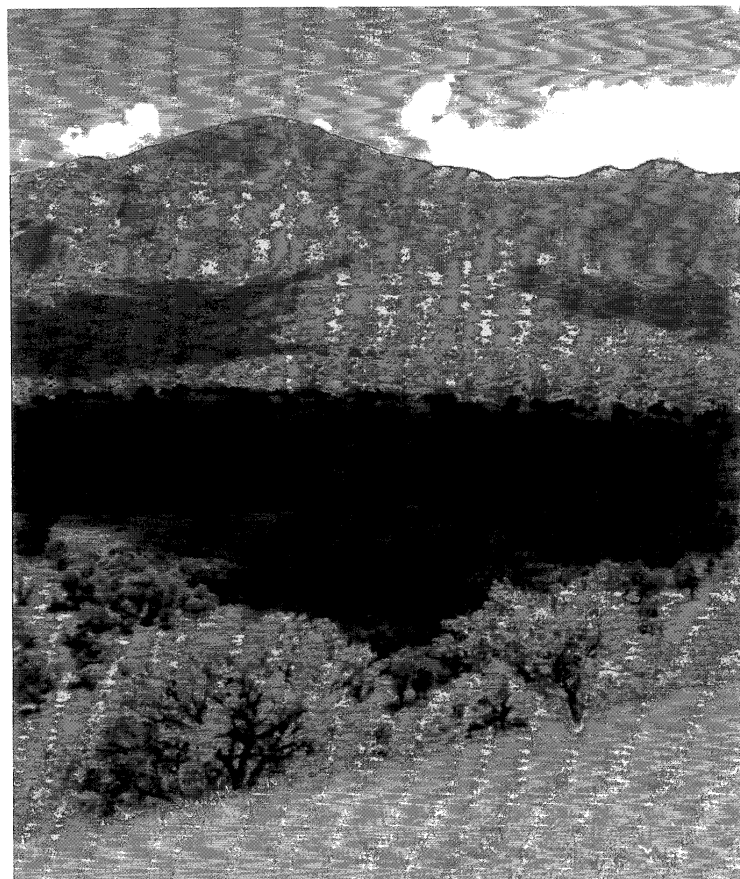
Comment No. 3

TEP's purpose and need for the proposed project, as provided to DOE in TEP's Presidential Permit Application, is "...to construct a double-circuit 345 kV, alternating current transmission line to interconnect the existing electrical systems of TEP and Citizens Utilities ("Citizens") in Nogales, Arizona, with a further interconnection to be made from Nogales, Arizona to the CFE transmission system...." In an applicant-initiated process, such as TEP's proposed project, the range of reasonable alternatives analyzed in detail in the EIS is directly related to the applicant's purpose and need.

Comment No. 4

ACC Decision No. 62011 (ACC 1999) mandates the construction of a second transmission line to serve customers in Santa Cruz County, and does not reference the export of electricity to Mexico. However, TEP's stated purpose and need for the proposed project is a dual purpose and need of benefiting both southern Arizona and Mexico.

Stevenson, Mark
Page 2 of 2



Atascosa Peak
August 2003 © Mark Stevenson

file:///C:/Photos/SE%20AZ%20Bird%20Sites/Atascosa%20002.jpg

10/1/03

Comment No. 4 (continued)

Section 1.2 of the Final EIS explains the roles of the Federal agencies in developing alternatives for the proposed project. Where an applicant seeks a permit for a particular business project, such as the case with TEP's proposed project, the Federal agencies generally limit their review of alternatives to those that would satisfy the applicant's proposal and decide whether that proposal is or is not worthy of receiving a permit. The Federal agencies do not review alternatives that are not within the scope of the applicant's proposal. Similarly, the agencies do not direct the applicant to alter its proposal; instead, the agencies decide whether a permit is appropriate for the proposal as the applicant envisions it. It is not for the agency to run the applicant's business and to change the applicant's proposal, but only to evaluate the environmental effects of the applicant's business proposal as offered. Accordingly, the EIS evaluates a reasonable range of alternatives, which include the full spectrum of alternatives that would satisfy the applicant's proposal.

A new power plant in Nogales is not a viable alternative to a new, second transmission line (part of TEP's proposal). Therefore, the alternative of a new power plant is not evaluated in detail in this EIS. Likewise, a smaller transmission line in lieu of the proposed 345-kV line would not meet the international interconnection aspect of TEP's proposal, and therefore is not evaluated in detail in this EIS. (Refer also to Section 2.1.5, Alternatives Considered But Eliminated From Further Analysis).

Stevenson, Mark
Page 1 of 1

1 October 2003

Sue Kozacek
Acting Forest Supervisor
Coronado National Forest
300 W Congress
Tucson, AZ 85701

RE: Tucson Electric Power Sahuarita-Nogales Transmission Line DEIS and needed Forest Plan Amendments

Dear Ms Kozacek,

Last month as I drove the Ruby Road from Arivaca to Pena Blanca Lake I felt as though I was visiting one of the most scenic and unspoiled areas in the entire state. The green grass, rolling oak-dotted hills and sheer escarpments are marvels. Then I imagined a long train of tall monopoles and silvery strands of power line marring the scene.....what a travesty it will be if TEP is allowed to build that powerline!

I have been using the Atascosa/Tumacacori/Pajarito area for recreation for over a decade. These mountains and their canyons are an exceptional area for primitive recreation; exceptional even in a state as rich in public lands as Arizona! The hiking and bird watching opportunities there are unique in the United States. I have made many trips down Sycamore Canyon to the border and marveled at its beauty. I have been up Peck Canyon. And many others. The areas that would be impacted by the "preferred western alternative" deserve protection, not a powerline and its concomitant roads. The road density in the Tumacacori EMA is already above the acceptable limits in the current Forest Plan. More road building, even with attempted closures, would be in violation of the Forest Plan.

I strongly urge you to deny the special use permit for the "preferred route" because it is not compatible with the current uses of the areas that would be affected. A Forest Plan Amendment is not in the interest of local citizens and forest users. The scenic and environmental values of the area need protection, not degradation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Mark Stevenson
4201 E. Monte Vista Dr J207
Tucson, AZ 85712-5554

Comment No. 1

Sections 3.1.2 and 4.1.2 present a description of the existing recreational opportunities and analyze the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project, including impacts to areas classified as semi-primitive in the Coronado National Forest. Section 4.1.2 specifically evaluates impacts to ROS indicators such as remoteness and naturalness, both of which would have changes that are "inconsistent" with the existing ROS classes for much of the length of the Western and Crossover Corridors within the Coronado National Forest.

Comment No. 2

The Tumacacori EMA of the Coronado National Forest in and of itself does not exceed road density limits set forth in the Forest Plan. Road density limits set forth in the Forest Plan are for the Coronado National Forest as a whole, not for individual land units or EMAs within the Coronado National Forest. Regarding the effectiveness of road closures, any authorization issued to implement the proposed project on the Coronado National Forest would contain terms and conditions to ensure road barrier effectiveness and maintenance, as appropriate. Based on these terms and conditions for ensuring the effectiveness of road closures, the proposed project is consistent with Forest Plan standards and guidelines for road density.

Comment No. 3

Sections 3.1 and 4.1 present a description of the existing land use and analyze the potential impact to these resources from the proposed project. Analysis of the proposed Forest Plan Amendment is contained in Appendix H.

Stone, Lee
Page 1 of 1

From: leeprairie@austin.rr.com
[SMTP:leeprairie@austin.rr.com]
To: Pell, Jerry
Cc:
Subject: EIS for Tucson Electric Power's proposed 345 kilovolt powerline
Sent: 10/10/2003 4:30 PM **Importance:** Normal

Dr. Jerry Pell
U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Fossil Energy (FE-27)
1000 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20585

Dear Dr. Pell,

1 | The current draft EIS for Tucson Electric Power's proposed
345 kilovolt powerline is insufficient and should be
withdrawn. It needs to propose some good alternatives. The
proposed "Western Route" and alternative "Crossover
Route" are not needed and will bring construction to the
2 | beautiful wild Tumacacori Highlands and destruction to
wildlife habitat.

1 | TEP should simply build the backup line needed for
cont. | Nogales.
Sincerely,

Lee Stone
494 SH 71 W STE 140-318
Bastrop, Texas 78602

Comment No. 1

The Draft EIS was prepared in accordance with Section 102(2)(c) of NEPA, the Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 *Code of Federal Regulations* [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), and all applicable laws, regulations, and agency policies. The Federal agencies have determined that the Draft EIS does not need to be re-issued for additional review.

Section 1.2 of the Final EIS explains the roles the Federal agencies in developing alternatives for the proposed project. Where an applicant seeks a permit for a particular business project, such as the case with TEP's proposed project, the Federal agencies generally limit their review of alternatives to those that would satisfy the applicant's proposal and decide whether that proposal is or is not worthy of receiving a permit. The Federal agencies do not review alternatives that are not within the scope of the applicant's proposal. Similarly, the agencies do not direct the applicant to alter its proposal; instead, the agencies decide whether a permit is appropriate for the proposal as the applicant envisions it. It is not for the agency to run the applicant's business and to change the applicant's proposal, but only to evaluate the environmental effects of the applicant's business proposal as offered. Accordingly, the EIS evaluates a reasonable range of alternatives, which include the full spectrum of alternatives that would satisfy the applicant's proposal.

Comment No. 2

Sections 3.3 and 4.3 present a description of the existing biological resources and analyze the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project, including impacts to wildlife habitat.

Sections 3.2 and 4.2 present a description of the existing visual resources and analyze the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project.

Taucher, Jamie
Page 1 of 1

Opposition to the Tucson ELeetric Power Sahuarita-Nogales
Transmission line DEIS

From: Jamie Taucher [SMTP:centereye@lycos.com]
To: Pell, Jerry
Cc: skozacek@fs.fed.us

Subject: Opposition to the Tucson ELeetric Power
Sahuarita-Nogales
Transmission line DEIS
Sent: 10/14/2003 3:40 PM
Importance: Normal

1 I strongly oppose the Western Route and the Crossover
Route of the transmission line. It is expensive,
environmentally damaging, and would slice thru citizen's
hard work of a proposed wilderness area. Also a smaller,
2 less obtrusive line is cheaper, can be buried and would serve
long term needs. Please issue an assessment that analyzes
real solutions to power needs, including a smaller powerline
and a locally run power plant- such as taking advantage of
the solar energy that is available. This area is too special to
be overlooked.

Thank you,

Jamie Taucher

Comment No. 1

The affected environment of the Western and Crossover Corridors is described in Chapter 3, and the potential environmental impacts (including socioeconomic impacts) from these alternatives are fully evaluated in Chapter 4.

Section 5.2.4 acknowledges the citizen-initiated proposal for an addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Comment No. 2

A new power plant in Nogales is not a viable alternative to a new, second transmission line (part of TEP's proposal). Therefore, the alternative of a new power plant is not evaluated in detail in this EIS. Likewise, a smaller transmission line in lieu of the proposed 345-kV line would not meet the international interconnection aspect of TEP's proposal, and therefore is not evaluated in detail in this EIS. (Refer also to Section 2.1.5, Alternatives Considered But Eliminated From Further Analysis).

Alternative or renewable power supply methods do not meet TEP's proposal and are thus not evaluated in this EIS (see Section 2.1.5).

Thomas, David
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From: gwillc@mtn.org
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2003 5:37 PM
To: Pell, Jerry
Subject: Environmental Impact Statement for Tucson
Electric Power's proposed 345 kilovolt powerline

Dr. Jerry Pell
U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Fossil Energy (FE-27)
1000 Independence Avenue. SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Dr. Pell,

1 I am writing to urge you to withdraw the current draft
Environmental Impact Statement for Tucson Electric
Power's proposed 345 kilovolt powerline.

2 Continuing to build old technology transmission lines
running hundreds or thousands of miles is senseless.
Smaller lines, distributed generation and other current
technologies make much more sense.

3 TEP's proposed "Western Route" and alternative "Crossover
Route" would carve through some of the most remote and
wild areas in Southeast Arizona, forever scarring the
beautiful and irreplaceable landscape of the Tumacacori
Highlands. This area contains several roadless areas as well
as a citizen's proposed Wilderness area home to black bears,
Mexican spotted owls, lesser-long nosed bats and peregrine
falcons as well as lesser known species such as the Sonora
chub, Mexican vine snake, elegant trogon and the Gentry
indigo bush. A jaguar was sighted in this area only two
years ago.

Comment No. 1

The Federal agencies note the commentor's suggestion that DOE withdraw the current Draft EIS.

Comment No. 2

Section 1.2 of the Final EIS explains the roles of the Federal agencies in developing alternatives for the proposed project. Where an applicant seeks a permit for a particular business project, such as the case with TEP's proposed project, the Federal agencies generally limit their review of alternatives to those that would satisfy the applicant's proposal and decide whether that proposal is or is not worthy of receiving a permit. The Federal agencies do not review alternatives that are not within the scope of the applicant's proposal. Similarly, the agencies do not direct the applicant to alter its proposal; instead, the agencies decide whether a permit is appropriate for the proposal as the applicant envisions it. It is not for the agency to run the applicant's business and to change the applicant's proposal, but only to evaluate the environmental effects of the applicant's business proposal as offered. Accordingly, the EIS evaluates a reasonable range of alternatives, which include the full spectrum of alternatives that would satisfy the applicant's proposal.

A new power plant in Nogales is not a viable alternative to a new, second transmission line (part of TEP's proposal). Therefore, the alternative of a new power plant is not evaluated in detail in this EIS. Likewise, a smaller transmission line in lieu of the proposed 345-kV line would not meet the international interconnection aspect of TEP's proposal, and therefore is not evaluated in detail in this EIS. (Refer also to Section 2.1.5, Alternatives Considered But Eliminated From Further Analysis.)

Thomas, David
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4

The important goal of providing fully reliable electrical service to the city of Nogales and Santa Cruz County must be achieved. Unfortunately, instead of building the small transmission line necessary to achieve this goal, TEP has proposed a massive, environmentally destructive, and extremely controversial powerline designed to export power to Mexico.

2
cont.

The draft EIS is clearly inadequate, because it does not address important alternatives to TEP's powerline which would provide reliable service without destroying our environmental and cultural heritage, and which would not require huge increases to consumers' electricity bills.

The recent blackout in the Northeast is an urgent reminder that our energy policy should be based on serving the public interest, not corporate private profits. I urge DOE to issue a new draft EIS which fully and rigorously explores all available options-including a local power plant and smaller power lines which would not serve Mexico-to meet the important public interest of providing reliable energy service to Santa Cruz County.

Sincerely,

David Thomas

Comment No. 3

Sections 3.1 and 4.1 describe existing land use resources and analyze potential impacts to these resources, including potential impacts to the Tumacacori Mountains and the Tumacacori EMA of the Coronado National Forest.

Sections 3.1, Land Use, and 3.12, Transportation, discuss the IRAs within the Coronado National Forest. Sections 4.1, Land Use, and 4.12, Transportation, evaluate potential impacts to IRAs.

Section 5.2.4 acknowledges the citizen-initiated proposal for an addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Sections 3.3 and 4.3 discuss the existing biological resources and analyze the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project, including potential impacts to wildlife.

Comment No. 4

TEP's purpose and need for the proposed project, as provided to DOE in TEP's Presidential Permit Application, is "...to construct a double-circuit 345 kV, alternating current transmission line to interconnect the existing electrical systems of TEP and Citizens Utilities ("Citizens") in Nogales, Arizona, with a further interconnection to be made from Nogales, Arizona to the CFE transmission system...." When a Federal agency is evaluating a request for a permit for a proposed action developed by a non-Federal applicant (e.g., TEP), CEQ has opined that Federal agencies should select alternatives which are feasible given the applicant's stated goals and reflect the "common sense realities" of the situation. Therefore, the Federal agencies are evaluating the proposed project presented by TEP to each of the Federal agencies (see Section 1.2.2, Federal Agencies' Purpose and Need Statements).

Thornton, William C.
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October 13, 2003

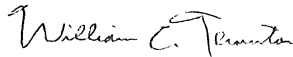
Dr. Jerry Pell
Office of Fossil Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585

Re: Tucson Electric Power Sahuarita-Nogales Transmission Line DEIS

Dear Dr. Pell:

- 1 I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed Western and Crossover routes for the above referenced power line.
- 2 These routes are the most costly and environmentally destructive. A smaller line could be built using existing utility corridors. It would be less costly to build and maintain and avoid bisecting a proposed wilderness area that is home to many threatened and endangered species.
- 3 The Western and Crossover routes are an unnecessary economic, environmental and cultural burden on southern Arizona. Please consider withdrawing this Draft Environmental Impact Statement and issuing a new assessment that protects a valuable wild area while providing real solutions to Santa Cruz County's power needs.

Sincerely,



William C. Thornton
2955 E. Chula Vista Dr.
Tucson, AZ 85716
Tel: (520) 795-6028
E-Mail: Cactusworld@att.net

Cc: Sue Kozacek, Coronado National Forest

Comment No. 1

The Federal agencies note the commentor's opposition to the proposed Western and Crossover Corridors.

Comment No. 2

A smaller transmission line in lieu of the proposed 345-kV line would not meet the international interconnection aspect of TEP's proposal, and therefore is not evaluated in detail in this EIS (refer also to Section 2.1.5, Alternatives Considered But Eliminated From Further Analysis).

The commentor's suggestion of building a transmission line adjacent to the existing transmission line in the I-19 corridor was considered but eliminated from further analysis in the EIS (see Section 2.1.5).

Comment No. 3

Section 1.2 of the Final EIS explains the roles of the Federal agencies in developing alternatives for the proposed project. Where an applicant seeks a permit for a particular business project, such as the case with TEP's proposed project, the Federal agencies generally limit their review of alternatives to those that would satisfy the applicant's proposal and decide whether that proposal is or is not worthy of receiving a permit. The Federal agencies do not review alternatives that are not within the scope of the applicant's proposal. Similarly, the agencies do not direct the applicant to alter its proposal; instead, the agencies decide whether a permit is appropriate for the proposal as the applicant envisions it. It is not for the agency to run the applicant's business and to change the applicant's proposal, but only to evaluate the environmental effects of the applicant's business proposal as offered. Accordingly, the EIS evaluates a reasonable range of alternatives, which include the full spectrum of alternatives that would satisfy the applicant's proposal.

Titus, Jonathan
Page 1 of 1

618 W Placita de la Poza
Tucson, AZ 85704
520-877-8447
October 4, 2003

Dr. Jerry Pell
Office of Fossil Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585

1 This letter is in regard to the "Tucson Electric Power Sahuarita-Nogales Transmission line DEIS". I am very opposed to the construction of this power line. The "preferred" Western Route is the longest, most expensive and environmentally damaging of all the alternatives. The Crossover Route is just as bad. Both the Western and Crossover Routes would slice through a proposed wilderness area and scar the area forever. The Tumacacori Highlands Proposed Wilderness is a wonderful area of scenic beauty, endangered species and plant communities that are now very rare.

2 Who is the power that this massive powerline will carry for? It is certainly not for Santa Cruz County. Either build a much smaller line (e.g., 115 kV) or don't build any powerline at all.

3 I do not support any of the proposed routes of this powerline. This powerline is a completely unnecessary economic, environmental, and cultural burden on Southern Arizona. Please withdraw the DEIS and issue a new DEIS that actually considers the power needs of Santa Cruz County. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Titus

Comment No. 1

Sections 3.1 and 4.1 describe existing land use resources and analyze potential impacts to these resources, including potential impacts to the Tumacacori Mountains and the Tumacacori EMA of the Coronado National Forest.

Sections 3.1, Land Use, and 3.12, Transportation, discuss the IRAs within the Coronado National Forest. Sections 4.1, Land Use, and 4.12, Transportation, evaluate potential impacts to IRAs.

Section 5.2.4 acknowledges the citizen-initiated proposal for an addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Sections 3.3 and 4.3 discuss the existing biological resources and analyze the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project, including potential impacts to wildlife.

Comment No. 2

A smaller transmission line (e.g., 115-kV line) in lieu of the proposed 345-kV line would not meet the international interconnection aspect of TEP's proposal, and therefore is not evaluated in detail in this EIS (refer also to Section 2.1.5, Alternatives Considered But Eliminated From Further Analysis).

Comment No. 3

The Federal agencies note the commentor's opposition to the proposed project.